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# ATS-5 DESPIN-MISSION MAGNETIC INVESTIGATION

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**Test and Evaluation Division  
Systems Reliability Directorate**

**November 1970**

**GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER  
Greenbelt, Maryland**

## ATS-5 DESPIN-MISSION MAGNETIC INVESTIGATION

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### SUMMARY

During March and April 1970, the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Magnetic Test Site tested apparatus for determining the feasibility of the proposed magnetic-despin concept for correcting attitude problems of spacecraft already in orbit. The GSFC Mark VI torquemeter was used to measure magnetic torques at various fixer-satellite and malfunctioning-satellite separation distances and angular orientations. The varying magnetic field, that a probe on board the despin satellite would view, caused by spin of the malfunctioning satellite was also measured.

The data obtained will be used to refine the mathematical model of the actual despin system.

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## ATS-5 DESPIN-MISSION MAGNETIC INVESTIGATION

### INTRODUCTION

In response to a request by W. C. Isley and Dr. Franz Zach of the Auxiliary Propulsion Branch, GSFC, a despin-satellite concept has been proposed for correcting attitude problems of spacecraft already in orbit (e.g., ATS-5) so that they can successfully accomplish their intended mission. Although ATS-5 was designed to be gravity-gradient stabilized, it is now spinning at 76 rpm. Because of difficulties encountered at final injection into orbit, the spacecraft cannot despin itself.

One method proposed for despinning ATS-5 is to use a despin satellite which will keep station with the spacecraft in its near vicinity. The despin satellite will contain a number of powerful electromagnets and will be attitude-controlled to keep the magnets pointing at ATS-5. Because ATS-5 also contains electromagnets, an interaction torque will be generated. By reversing the magnetic moment of the despin-satellite electromagnets at the proper time, the direction of the torque generated will serve to despin ATS-5 and to eventually bring it to a standstill.

### PURPOSE OF TESTS

The purpose of the tests was to obtain experimental results for comparison with those obtained from a mathematical model. In this way, the mathematical model can be refined so that a high degree of confidence can be assigned to predictions for actual despin performance.

Two electromagnets were obtained to aid in the evaluation of the magnetic-torquer concept. These electromagnets are not necessarily identical to those which will be used in an actual mission. Use of these electromagnets and the GSFC Mark VI torquemeter has made it possible to simulate the space environment and to measure the retarding torques which are generated.

### TEST DESCRIPTION

All torque testing was done in either the Magnetic Instrument Test Laboratory or the Spacecraft Magnetic Test Facility at the GSFC Magnetic Test Site. These facilities can produce a highly stable magnetic environment at either zero field or any other desired level up to 60,000 gammas.

Figure 1 shows the setup used to determine the magnetic moments of the electromagnets. The electromagnet was mounted on the Mark VI torquemeter at the approximate center of the coil system. The torque which results when the coil system applies a known field vector is proportional to the magnetic moment of the magnet under test.

Fields of 60,000 gammas were applied in the north and south directions and the resulting torque was measured. One set of measurements was made with the electromagnets in their "as-received" condition; another set was made after the electromagnets had been charged by the capacitor bank. Table 1 summarizes the results of these tests.

In Figure 2, one electromagnet (simulating the despin torquer) was mounted on a rotatable nonmagnetic stand so that its position could be reversed. The other electromagnet was mounted at the approximate center of the coil system on the Mark VI torquemeter. This magnet was displaced from the center of twist of the torquemeter and was mounted on a rotatable plywood support so that it could be placed in a series of angular orientations (simulating the torquer rods in the ATS-5 spacecraft).

For these tests, the ATS simulator magnet was mounted on the torquemeter and set in a series of angular orientations from 0 to 360 degrees at 10-degree increments. The torquemeter was read with the ATS magnet in a given position. The despin magnet was then turned end-for-end and the torquemeter was again read. Half the difference between these readings was taken as the value of the interaction torque. The coil systems were programmed to produce zero field.

The tests were performed with the magnets in both "as-received" and charged conditions. In addition, torque data were obtained at several separation distances and at two angular positions of the despin magnet. Tables 2, 3, 4, and 5 list the data obtained during these tests.

Figure 3 shows the arrangement used in charging the electromagnets, including the charging circuitry. The dc power supply charged the capacitor bank to the desired voltage level, and the energy was discharged into the winding of the electromagnet in a single pulse. The diode across the capacitor output prevented ring-down oscillations. The Hall probe was maintained at a fixed distance from the end of the electromagnet to indicate relative changes in strength of the electromagnet as it was charged or discharged.

Using the equipment shown in Figure 3, the capacitor bank was charged to a selected voltage after which it was discharged into the magnet coil. The field sensed by the Hall probe was measured after each discharge. A compass was used to verify the direction of the magnetic moment of the electromagnet. Various

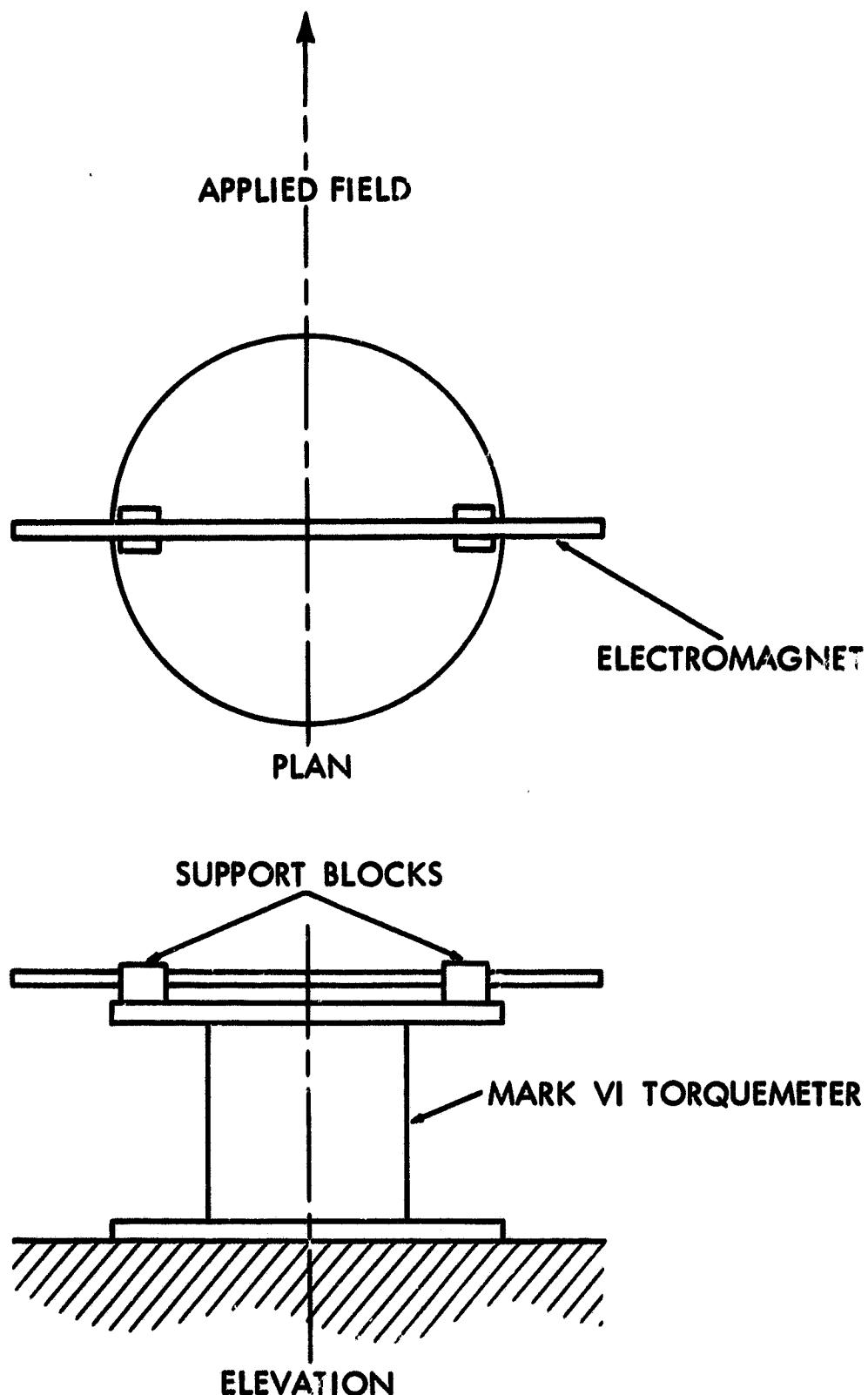


Figure 1. Test Setup for Magnetic-Moment Measurement

Table 1  
ATS-5 Despin-Mission Magnetic-Moment Determination\*

Magnet	State	Sensitivity (mv/mm)	Divisions	Calibration Factor (dyne-cm/div)	Torque (dyne-cm)	Direction	Applied Field	Magnetic Moment (pole-cm)
103	As received	50	26.5	223.5	5,920	CW	50 K $\gamma$ N	9,870
104	As received	50	28.0	223.5	6,260	CCW	60 K $\gamma$ N	10,430
103	Fully charged	100	24.0	1180.0	28,320	CW	60 K $\gamma$ N	47,200
104	Fully charged	100	24.0	1180.0	28,320	CW	60 K $\gamma$ N	47,200

\*Using setup shown in Figure 1

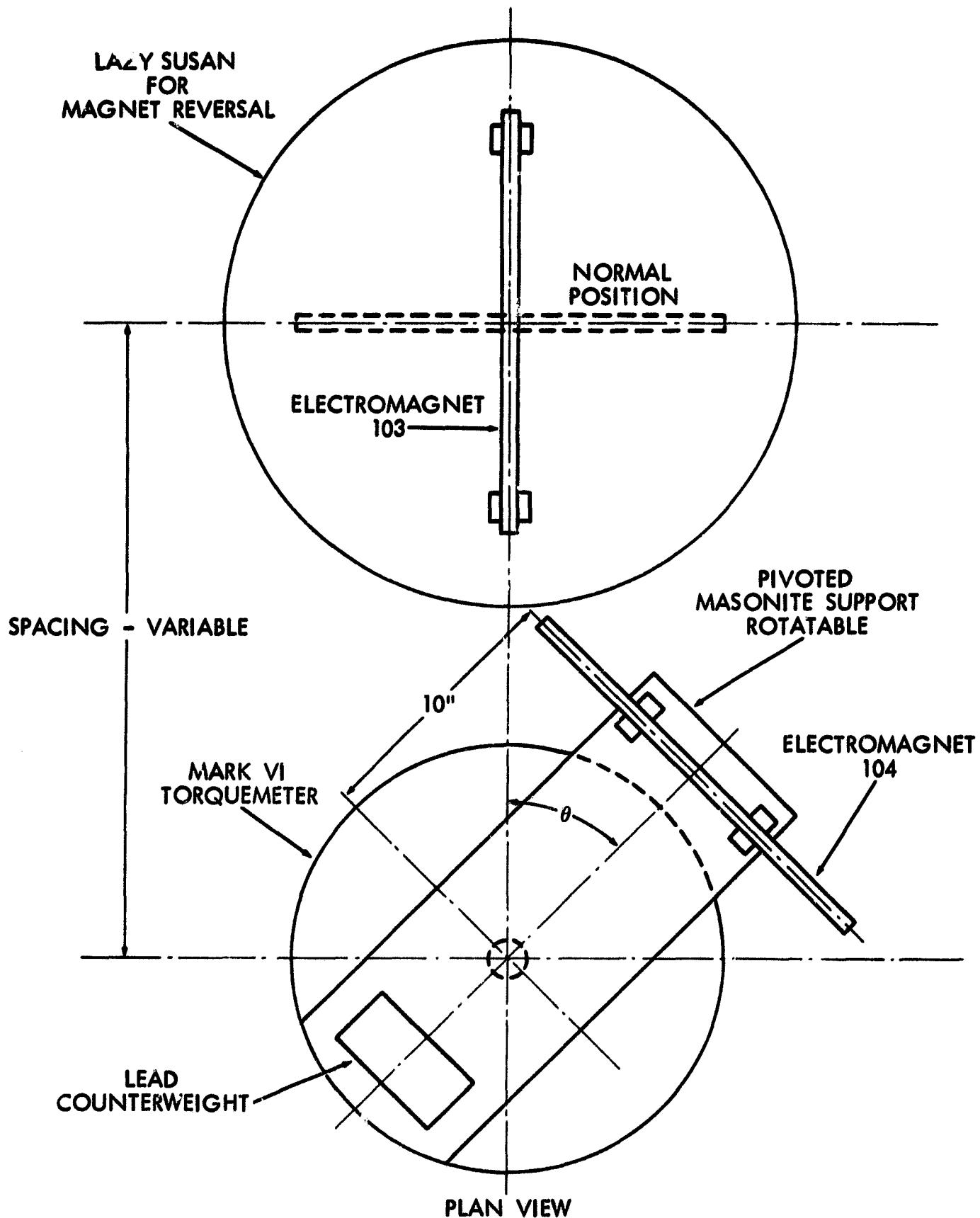


Figure 2. Test Setup for Despin-Torque Measurement

**Table 2**  
**ATS-5 Despin-Torque Test, March 26, 1970\***  
**(as received)**

$\theta$ (degrees)	Divisions	Sensitivity	Torque (dyne-cm)	Direction	Calibration Factor
Cal	24.5	20 mv/mm	1960	CCW	80 dyne-cm/div
0	25.5	50 mv/mm	2560	CCW	
10	27.0	50 mv/mm	2700	CCW	
Cal	20.0	20 mv/mm	1960	CCW	98 dyne-cm/div
20	20.0	50 mv/mm	2450	CCW	
30	16.0	50 mv/mm	1960	CCW	
40	9.5	20 mv/mm	468	CCW	
50	28.0	20 mv/mm	1370	CW	
60	38.5	20 mv/mm	1890	CW	
70	32.0	20 mv/mm	1570	CW	
80	23.0	20 mv/mm	1130	CW	
90	16.5	20 mv/mm	810	CW	
100	10.5	20 mv/mm	515	CW	
110	16.0	10 mv/mm	390	CW	
120	12.5	10 mv/mm	310	CW	
130	10.0	10 mv/mm	245	CW	
140	16.0	5 mv/mm	196	CW	
150	15.0	5 mv/mm	183	CW	
160	11.0	5 mv/mm	135	CW	
170	9.0	5 mv/mm	110	CW	
180	10.0	5 mv/mm	123	CW	
190	10.5	5 mv/mm	129	CW	
200	12.0	5 mv/mm	147	CW	
210	13.0	5 mv/mm	160	CW	
220	16.5	5 mv/mm	202	CW	
230	20.0	5 mv/mm	245	CW	
240	12.5	10 mv/mm	306	CW	
250	15.5	10 mv/mm	380	CW	
260	22.5	10 mv/mm	550	CW	
270	16.0	20 mv/mm	784	CW	
280	22.0	20 mv/mm	1080	CW	
290	30.0	20 mv/mm	1470	CW	
300	14.0	0.5 v/cm	1720	CW	
310	23.5	20 mv/mm	1150	CW	
320	8.0	20 mv/mm	392	CCW	
330	33.5	20 mv/mm	1640	CCW	
340	18.0	0.5 v/cm	2220	CCW	
350	20.0	0.5 v/cm	2450	CCW	
360	20.0	0.5 v/cm	2450	CCW	
10	20.5	0.5 v/cm	2510	CCW	
300	33.5	20 mv/mm	1640	CW	

\*Using setup shown in Figure 2

**Table 3**  
**ATS-5 Despin-Torque Test with Torquer Normal\***  
**(as received)**

$\theta$ (degrees)	Sensitivity (mv/mm)	Divisions	Scale Factor	Torque (dyne-cm)	Sense	Calibration Factor
Cal	20	19.5	—	1960	CCW	101 dyne-cm/div
0	10	0.5	0.5	25	CCW	
10	10	13.0	0.5	657	CW	
20	10	27.0	0.5	1364	CW	
30	20	18.0	1.0	1818	CW	
40	20	20.0	1.0	2020	CW	
50	20	18.0	1.0	1818	CW	
60	10	21.5	0.5	1060	CW	
70	10	10.0	0.5	505	CW	
80	10	0.5	0.5	25	CCW	
90	10	3.0	0.5	152	CCW	
100	5	10.5	0.25	265	CCW	
110	5	11.0	0.25	278	CCW	
120	5	8.0	0.25	109	CCW	
130	5	8.0	0.25	109	CCW	
140	2	11.0	0.1	111	CCW	
150	2	9.0	0.1	91	CCW	
160	2	6.0	0.1	61	CCW	
170	2	5.0	0.1	50	CCW	
180	2	1.5	0.1	15	CW	
190	2	1.0	0.1	10	CW	
200	2	7.0	0.1	71	CW	
Cal	20	19.0	—	1960	CCW	103 dyne-cm/div
210	2	9.0	0.1	92	CCW	
220	2	11.0	0.1	112	CCW	
230	2	14.0	0.1	143	CCW	
240	2	21.0	0.1	214	CCW	
250	5	9.0	0.25	229	CCW	
260	2	17.0	0.1	173	CCW	
270	2	4.5	0.1	46	CCW	
280	2	13.0	0.1	133	CW	
290	5	22.0	0.25	561	CW	
300	5	44.0	0.25	1122	CW	
310	10	32.5	0.5	1658	CW	
320	10	37.0	0.5	1887	CW	
330	10	32.5	0.5	1658	CW	
340	10	24.0	0.5	1224	CW	
350	10	11.0	0.5	561	CW	
360	2	4.5	0.1	46	CCW	
Cal	20	19.0	1.0	1960	CCW	103 dyne-cm/div

\*Using setup shown in Figure 2

**Table 4**  
**ATS-5 Despin-Torque Test\***  
**(fully charged)**

$\theta$	P-P Defl.	Sanborn Sensitivity	Torque	
			Magnitude (dyne-cm)	Direction

1. Separation - 2' -8-1/4" R = 10" Calibration = 60.3 dyne-cm/div at 5 mV/mm on 5 scale

0	32.5	2 v/cm	39,300	CW
10	32.0	2 v/cm	38,700	CW
20	29.5	2 v/cm	35,500	CW
30	30.0	2 v/cm	24,100	CW
40	3.5	2 v/cm	4,220	CW
50	26.5	1 v/cm	15,950	CCW
60	38.0	1 v/cm	22,900	CCW
70	17.0	2 v/cm	20,500	CCW
80	13.5	2 v/cm	16,250	CCW
90	21.0	1 v/cm	12,650	CCW
100	15.5	1 v/cm	9,330	CCW
120	8.5	1 v/cm	5,110	CCW
140	10.5	0.5 v/cm	3,160	CCW
160	3.5	20 mV/mm	420	CCW
180	19.0	20 mV/mm	2,290	CCW

2. Separation - 7' -6-7/8" Calibration =  $\frac{1967}{17} = 115.6$  dyne-cm/div at 1 v/cm on 3 scale

30	14.0	1.0 v/cm		CW
40	10.5	0.5 v/cm		CW
50	5.5	0.5 v/cm		CW
60	3.0	0.5 v/cm		CW
70	0.0	0.5 v/cm		-
80	4.0	0.5 v/cm		CCW

3. Separation - 4' -1-1/2" Calibration =  $\frac{1967}{35} = 56.2$  dyne-cm/div at 0.5 v/cm on 3 scale

30	28.0	2 v/cm		CW
40	14.0	2 v/cm		CW
50	1.0	2 v/cm		CW
60	9.5	2 v/cm		CCW

4. Separation - 5' -3-3/4" Calibration: None

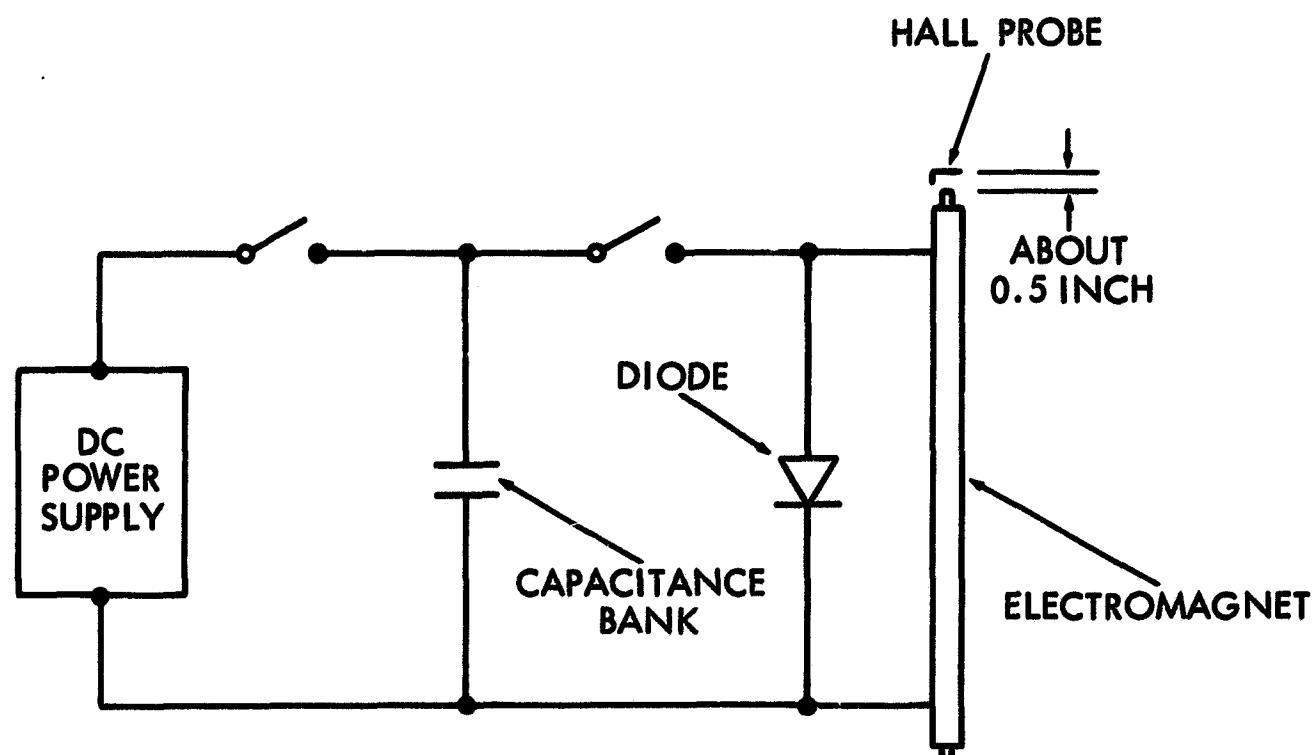
40	24.0	0.5 v/cm		CW
50	10.0	0.5 v/cm		CW
60	5.0	0.5 v/cm		CCW

\*Using setup shown in Figure 2

**Table 5**  
**ATS-5 Despin Electromagnet Moments\***  
**(charged state)**

Calibration = $5900 \div 24.5 = 241$ dyne-cm/div at 20 mv/mm on 5 scale						
Magnet	Div Defl.	Sensitivity (v/cm)	Torque		Field	Magnetic Moment (pole-cm)
			Magnitude (dyne-cm)	Direction		
104	24	1	28,900	CW	60 K $\gamma$ N	48,200
104	24	1	28,900	CCW	60 K $\gamma$ S	48,200
103	24	1	28,900	CW	60 K $\gamma$ N	48,200
103	24	1	28,900	CCW	60 K $\gamma$ S	48,200

\*Using setup shown in Figure 1



**Figure 3. Electromagnet Charging Circuity**

total capacitance and voltage levels were used in these tests. In addition, the time required for charging and discharging the capacitors was approximated by observing a cathode-ray-tube display. Table 6 lists the data obtained.

A series of tests was performed to investigate the feasibility of using a magnetometer on board the despin satellite to monitor the magnetic field produced by the ATS satellite as it rotates. It was believed that the measurement of the ATS field as it rotated might serve as an indication of its angular orientation with respect to the despin satellite. If so, the field measurement would indicate the proper instant to reverse the magnetic moment of the despin magnets so that the torque applied would not reverse, but would always be in the proper direction to retard the ATS.

Figure 4 shows the setup used to perform these tests. The first step was to remove magnet 104 from the facility and then to change the angular position of magnet 103 slowly until only a small field (approximately 5 to 10 gammas) was read by the Z probe of the magnetometer. Magnet 104 was then placed in the position shown in Figure 4 and rotated by the adjustable-speed motor at a period of about 5 seconds per revolution. Simultaneously, the Z component of field was recorded on the Sanborn recorder. Data were obtained at two different separation distances and with several settings of the electric filter. Figures 5 through 7 show typical records obtained.

## TEST RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Magnetic-Moment Measurement

The magnetic moments of the electromagnets in their "as-received" condition were:

$$\text{Magnet 103} = 9,850 \text{ pole-cm}$$

$$\text{Magnet 104} = 10,450 \text{ pole-cm}$$

After charging to maximum residual magnetism (remanent perm), the magnetic moments were:

$$\text{Magnet 103} = 47,200 \text{ pole-cm}$$

$$\text{Magnet 104} = 47,200 \text{ pole-cm}$$

Table 6  
ATS-5 Despin Magnetic-Charging Test\*

Capacity ( $\mu$ f)	Voltage	Charge Number	Flux Den- sity(gauss)	Capacity ( $\mu$ f)	Voltage	Charge Number	Flux Den- sity(gauss)	Capacity ( $\mu$ f)	Voltage	Charge Number	Flux Den- sity(gauss)
100	0	1	7.00	100	+40	20	17.35	150	+112	1	+30.0
100	+20	2	7.15	100	+50	1	19.8	150	+112	2	+35.0
100	+20	3	7.27	100	+50	2	22.7	350	+112	1	+36.1
100	+20	4	7.38	100	+50	3	24.3	350	+112	2	+36.1
100	+20	5	7.39	100	+50	4	25.3	350	+112	1	-36.6
100	+20	6	7.39	100	+50	5	25.3	350	+112	2	-36.9
100	+20	7	7.79	100	+50	6	26.0	350	+112	1	+35.7
100	+20	8	7.86	100	+50	7	27.5	350	+112	2	+35.7
100	+20	9	7.90	100	+55	8	28.0	350	+112	1	-36.1
100	+30	10	7.91	100	+55	9	28.0	350	-112	2	-36.6
100	+30	11	7.99	100	+55	10	28.2	350	-100	1	-36.7
100	+30	12	8.10	100	+70	11	30.8	350	+100	1	+35.0
100	+30	13	8.15	100	+70	12	31.4	350	+100	2	+35.8
100	+30	14	8.65	100	+70	13	31.6	350	+100	3	+35.8
100	+30	15	8.65	100	+80	14	32.7	350	-100	1	-35.7
100	+30	16	8.10	100	+80	15	33.0	350	-100	1	-36.6
100	+30	17	8.65	100	+70	16	33.1	350	-100	1	-35.7
100	+30	18	8.62	100	+70	17	33.1	350	-100	1	-36.6
100	+30	19	8.65	100	+80	18	34.4	350	+100	1	+35.0
100	+30	20	9.48	100	+80	19	34.6	350	+80	1	+35.1
100	+40	21	10.0	100	+80	20	34.7	350	-80	1	-32.5
100	+40	22	10.65	100	+100	21	34.7	350	-80	2	-35.6
100	+40	23	11.1	100	+100	22	34.7	350	-80	3	-35.7
100	+40	24	11.5	100	+100	23	34.7	350	-80	1	-36.6
100	+40	25	12.4	100	+100	24	34.7	350	-80	1	-35.7
100	+40	26	11.8	100	+100	25	34.7	350	-80	2	-35.6
100	+40	27	12.4	100	+100	26	35.1	350	-80	3	-35.7
100	+40	28	13.0	100	+100	27	35.2	350	-80	1	-34.5
100	+40	29	13.6	100	+100	28	35.6	350	+80	2	+34.5
100	+40	30	14.2	100	+112	29	35.7	350	+60	1	+34.3
100	+40	31	14.6	100	+112	30	35.7	350	-60	2	-13.5
100	+40	32	14.85	100	+112	31	-33.0	350	-60	3	-29.6
100	+40	33	15.45	100	+112	32	-36.5	350	-60	4	-32.8
100	+40	34	16.1	100	+112	33	+32.2	350	-60	1	-33.5
100	+40	35	16.3	100	+112	34	+35.5	350	-60	2	-33.5
100	+40	36	16.7	100	+112	35	-36.2	350	+60	1	+13.3
100	+40	37	17.75	100	-112	36	-36.5	350	+60	2	+30.8
100	+40	38	17.25	100	-112	37	-36.5	350	+60	3	+31.6
100	+40	39	17.25	100	-112	38	-36.5	350	+60	4	+32.5

\*Setup as shown in Figure 3

Time required to reverse charge = 0.020 seconds

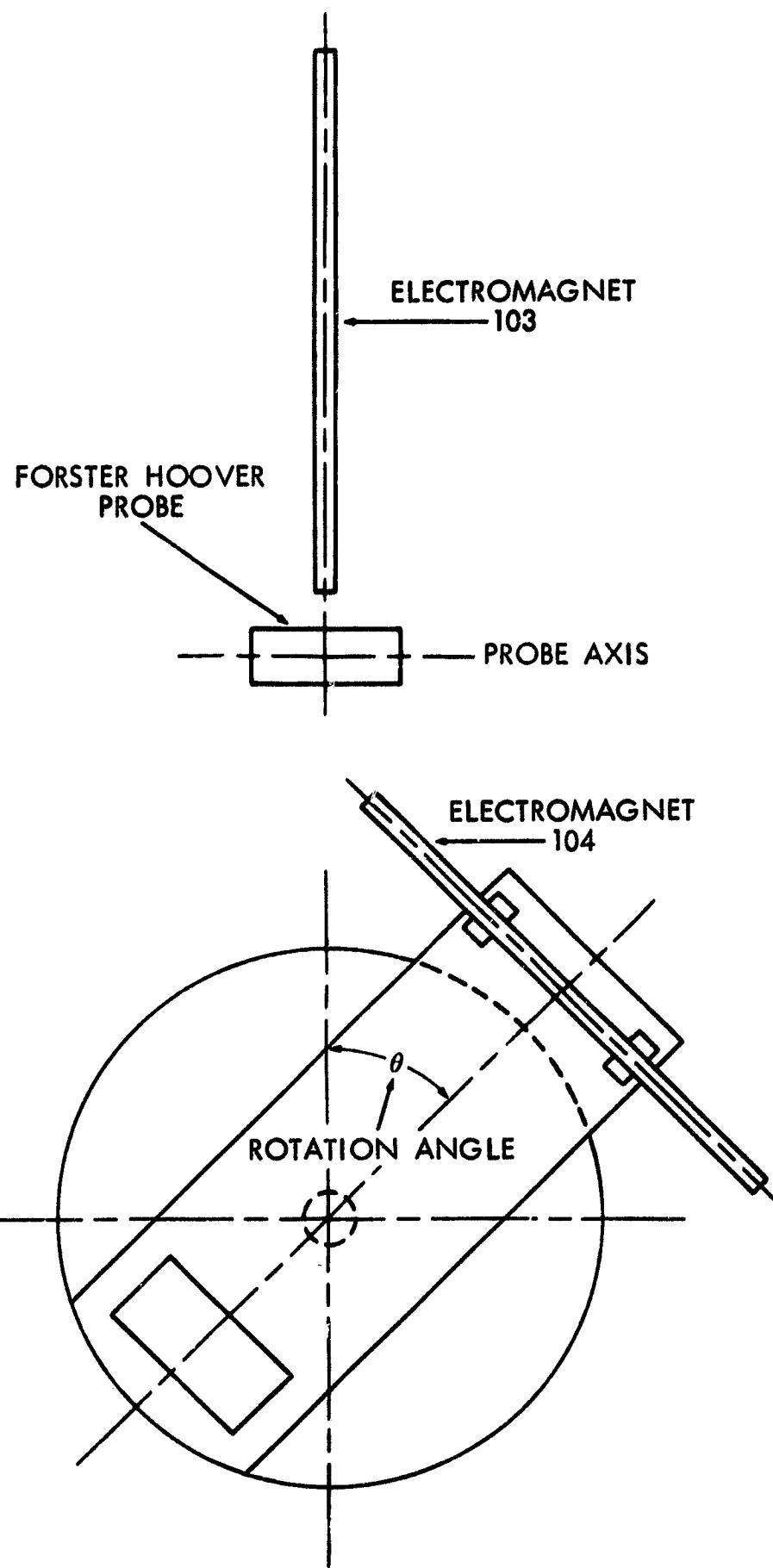
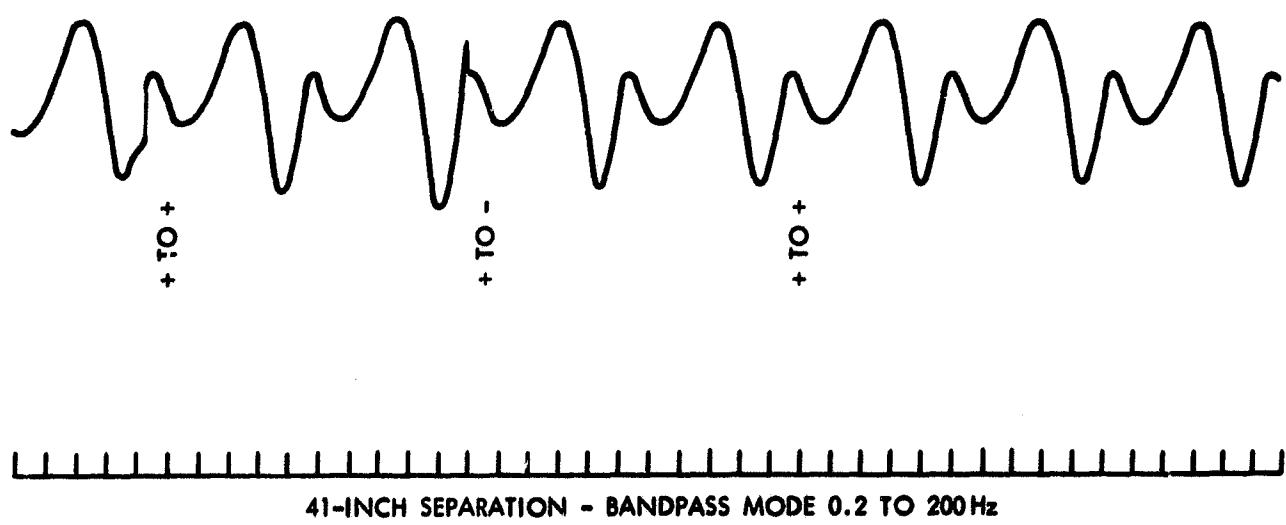
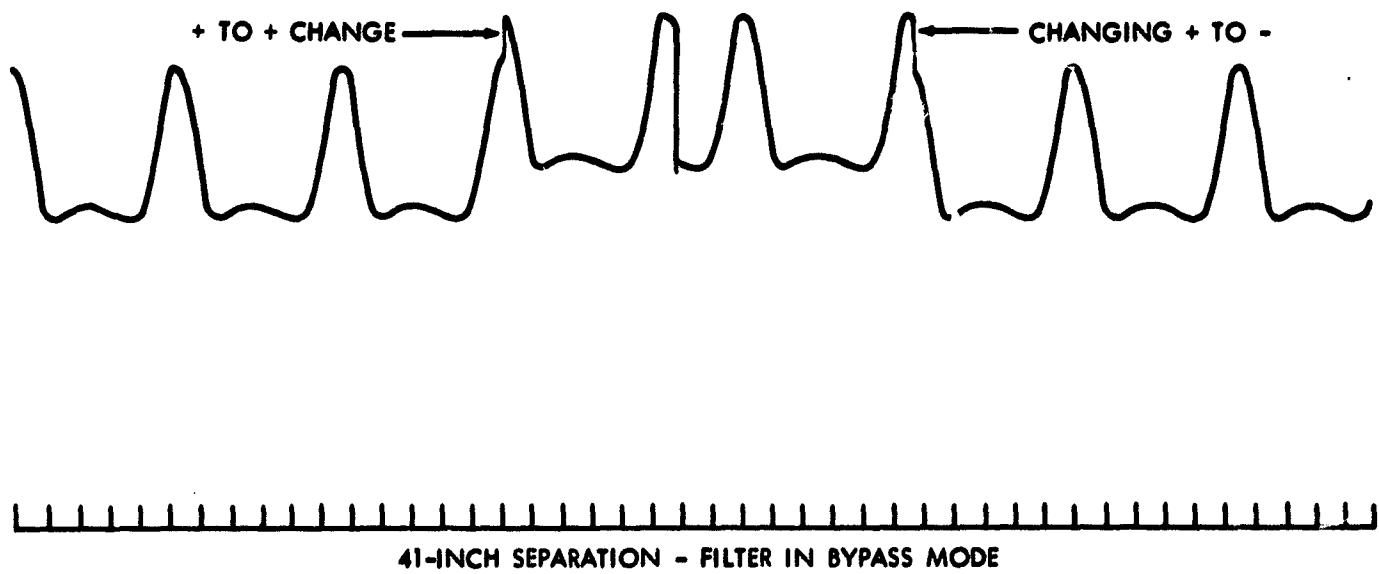
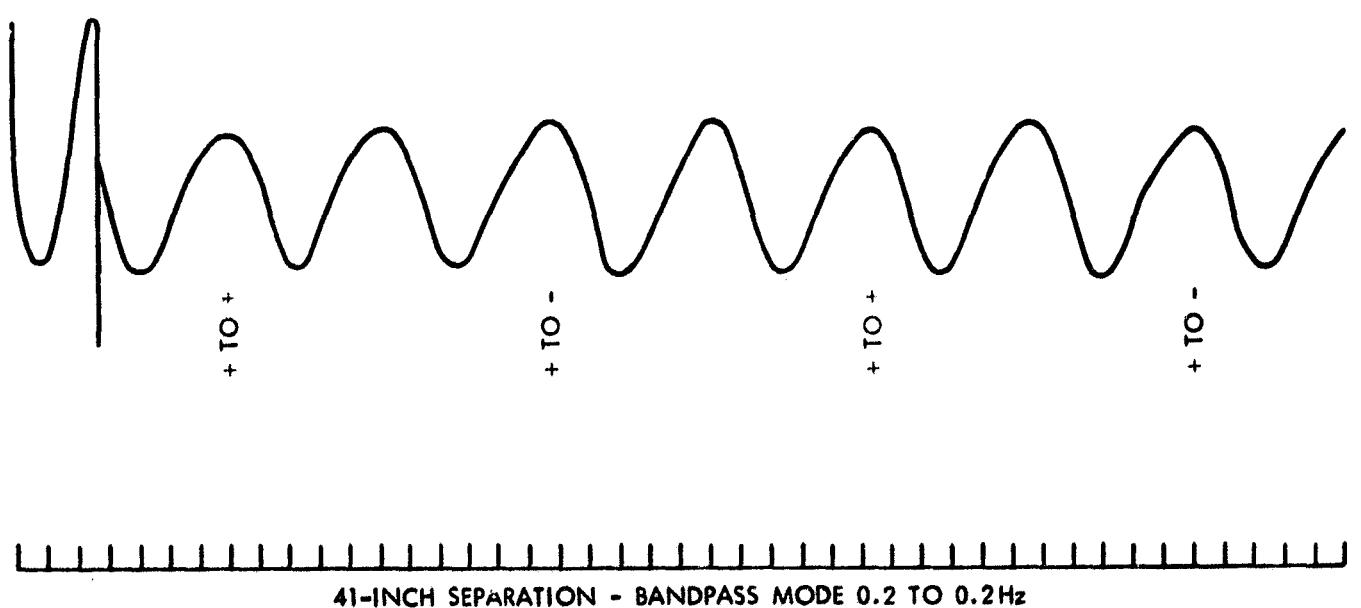
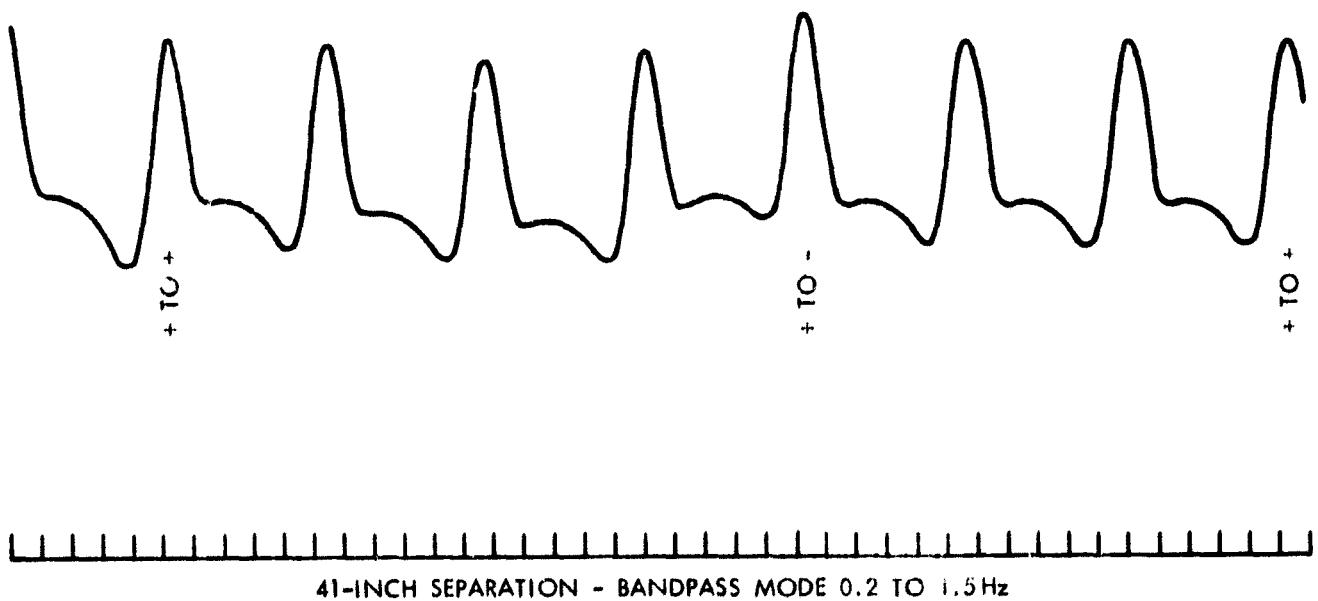


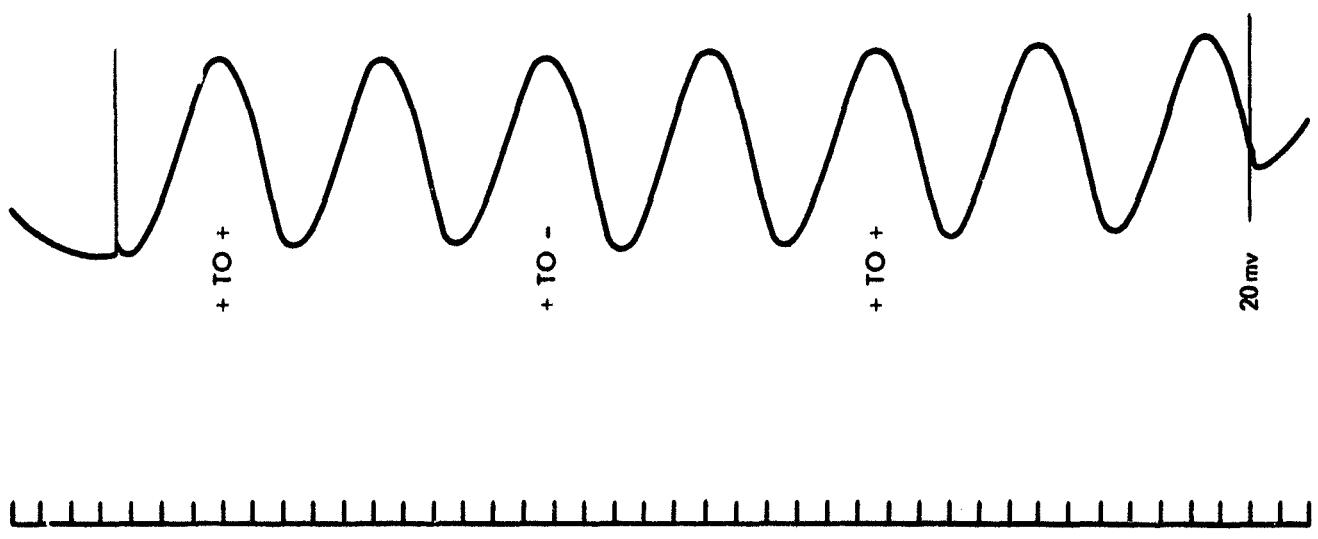
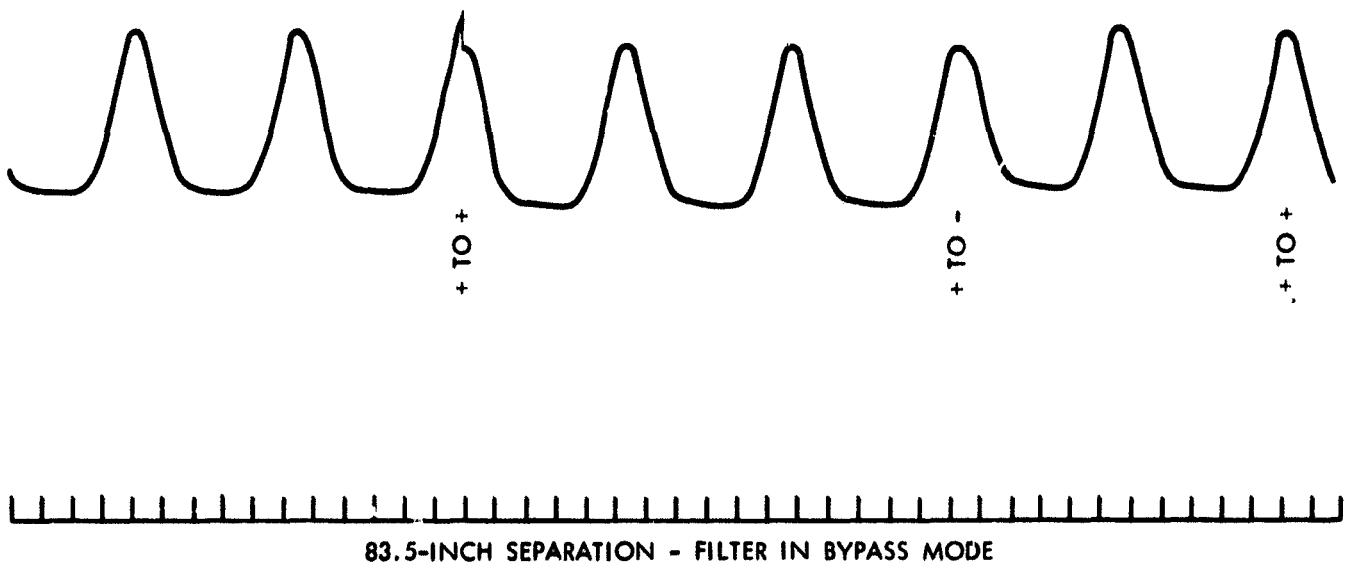
Figure 4. Test Setup for Magnet Signature Measurement



**Figure 5. Variation of Magnetometer Output with ATS Simulator Rotation**



**Figure 6. Variation of Magnetometer Output with ATS Simulator Rotation**



**Figure 7. Variation of Magnetometer Output with ATS Simulator Rotation**

### Interaction Torque Measurement

Figure 8 is a plot of the data listed in Table 2. The curve is symmetrical about the 180-degree position with torque reversal occurring at about 42 degrees and again at 318 degrees. If the moment of the despin magnet were reversed at these positions, the torque on the ATS would be unidirectional.

Figure 9 is a plot of the data listed in Table 3. Although the magnets were still in the "as-received" magnetic state, the despin magnet was oriented perpendicular to the line of centers as shown in Figure 9. The torque levels developed are significantly less than those for the "in-line" case. In addition, another torque reversal occurs per cycle.

Figure 10 is a plot of the data listed in Table 4. These data were taken through only one-half a rotation, the curve being symmetrical, with both magnets in the fully charged state. The separation distance was slightly greater (2 feet 8.25 inches versus 2 feet 6 inches for the "as-received" tests).

In addition to the torque data taken at the foregoing separation distances, measurements were made at several other spacings to determine the angle at which torque reversal occurred. Table 4 lists the results. A plot of the torque reversal angle versus the separation distance is a straight line (Figure 11).

### Magnet Charging

Figure 12 shows the maximum flux density obtained as a result of repeated charging at a specific voltage level. Figure 13 indicates the percent of this maximum attained on the first reversal after fully charging in one direction. It was found that the magnets could be completely reversed in moment polarity with one pulse using a 350-microfarad capacitor charged to 112 volts. Cathode-ray oscilloscope observation of the voltage developed across a precision resistor indicated that the time required for complete reversal is approximately 0.02 second.

### Magnetic Measurements

The magnetic observations demonstrated that the magnetometer probe can be manually aligned so that it views only 5 to 10 gammas when only a few inches away from the end of the fully charged despin magnet. Subsequent installation and rotation of the simulated ATS magnet resulted in the magnetometer records shown in Figures 5 through 7. Note that reversal of the polarity of the despin magnet produced both a dc offset and a step discontinuity at the moment of reversal (Figures 5 and 7) and that higher harmonics, as well as the fundamental rotational frequency, appear in the magnetic-field record. These characteristics

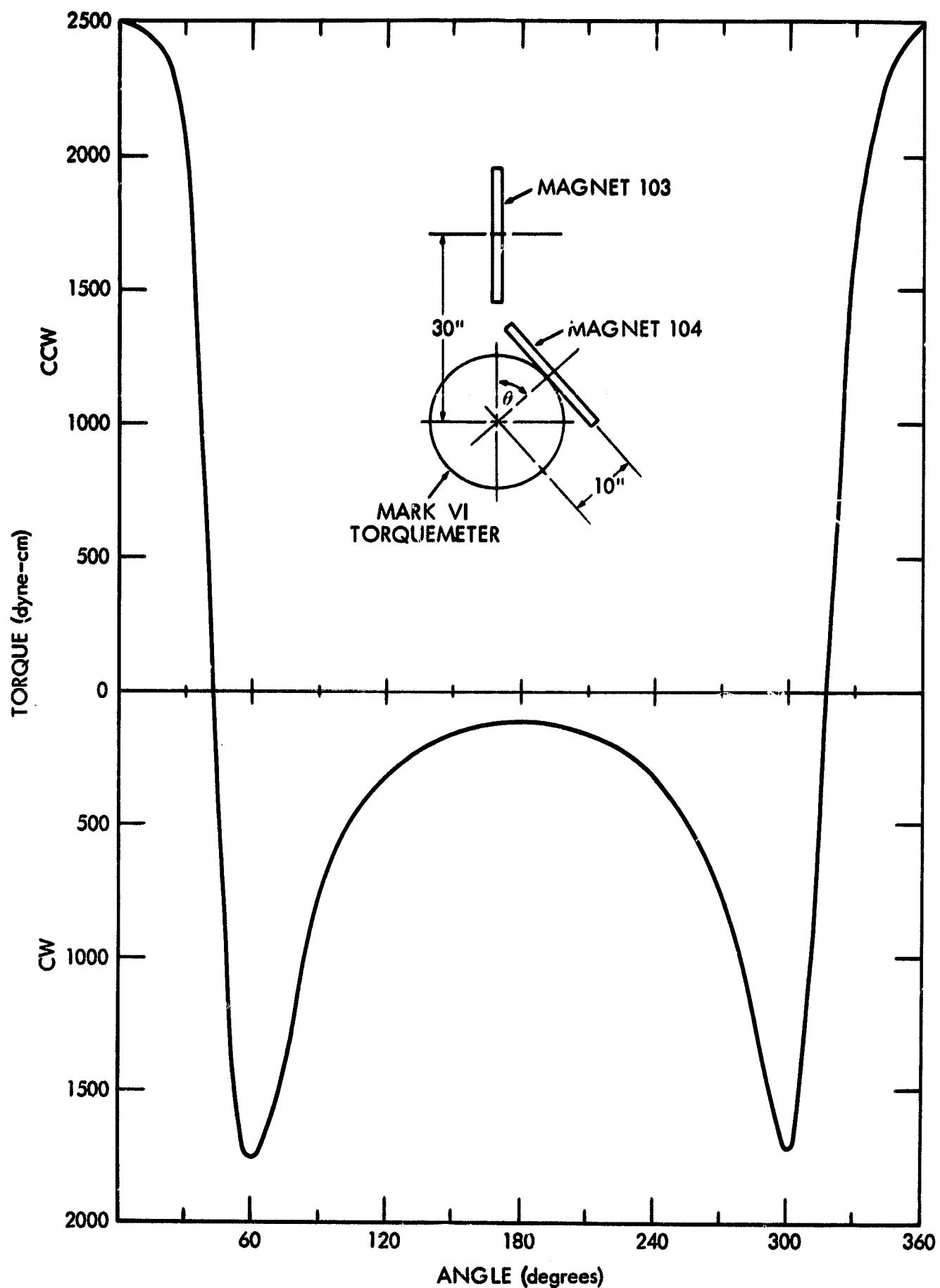


Figure 8. ATS-5 Despin Torques with Magnets in "As-Received" Condition

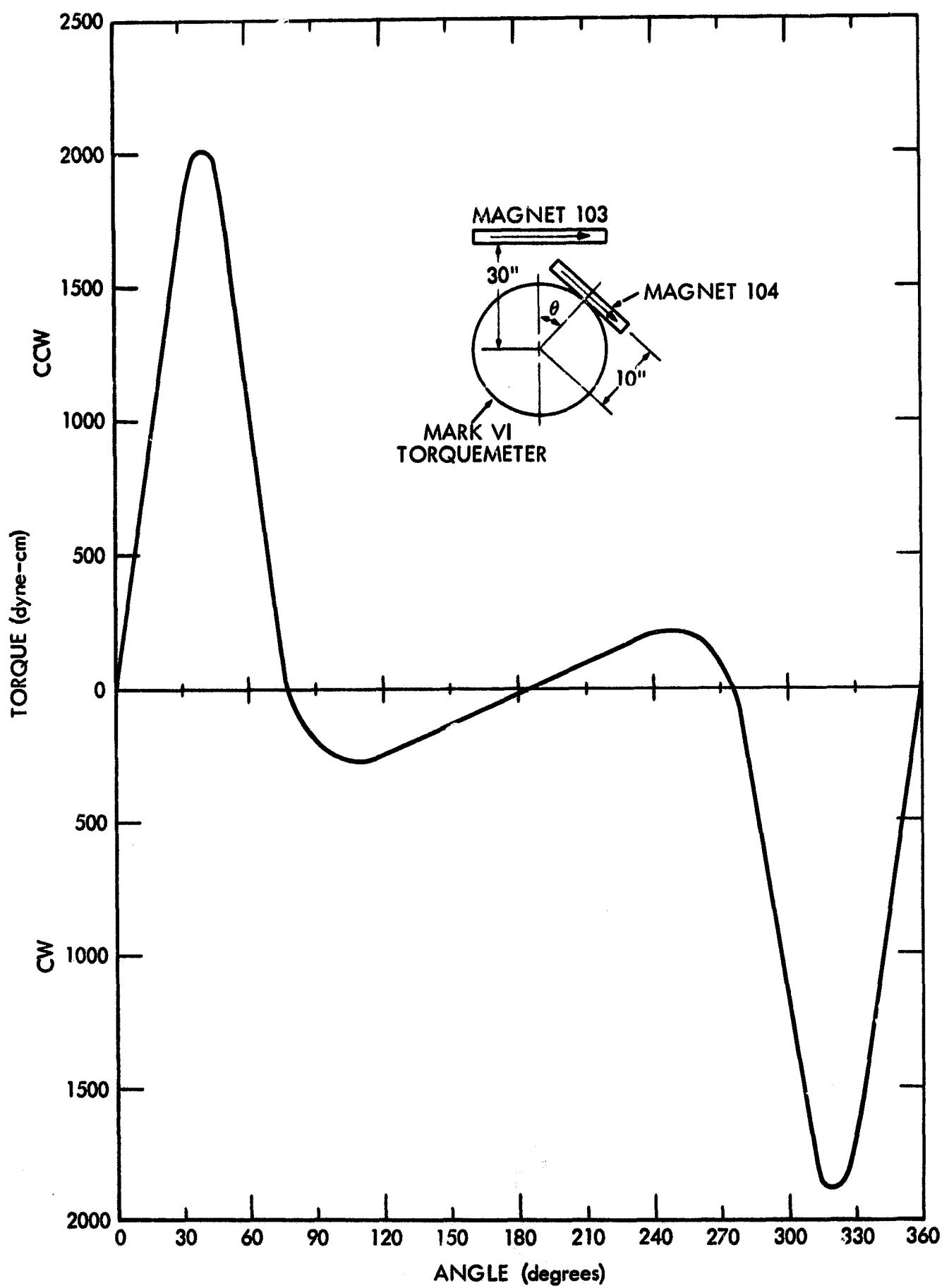


Figure 9. ATS-5 Despin Torques with Torquer Normal

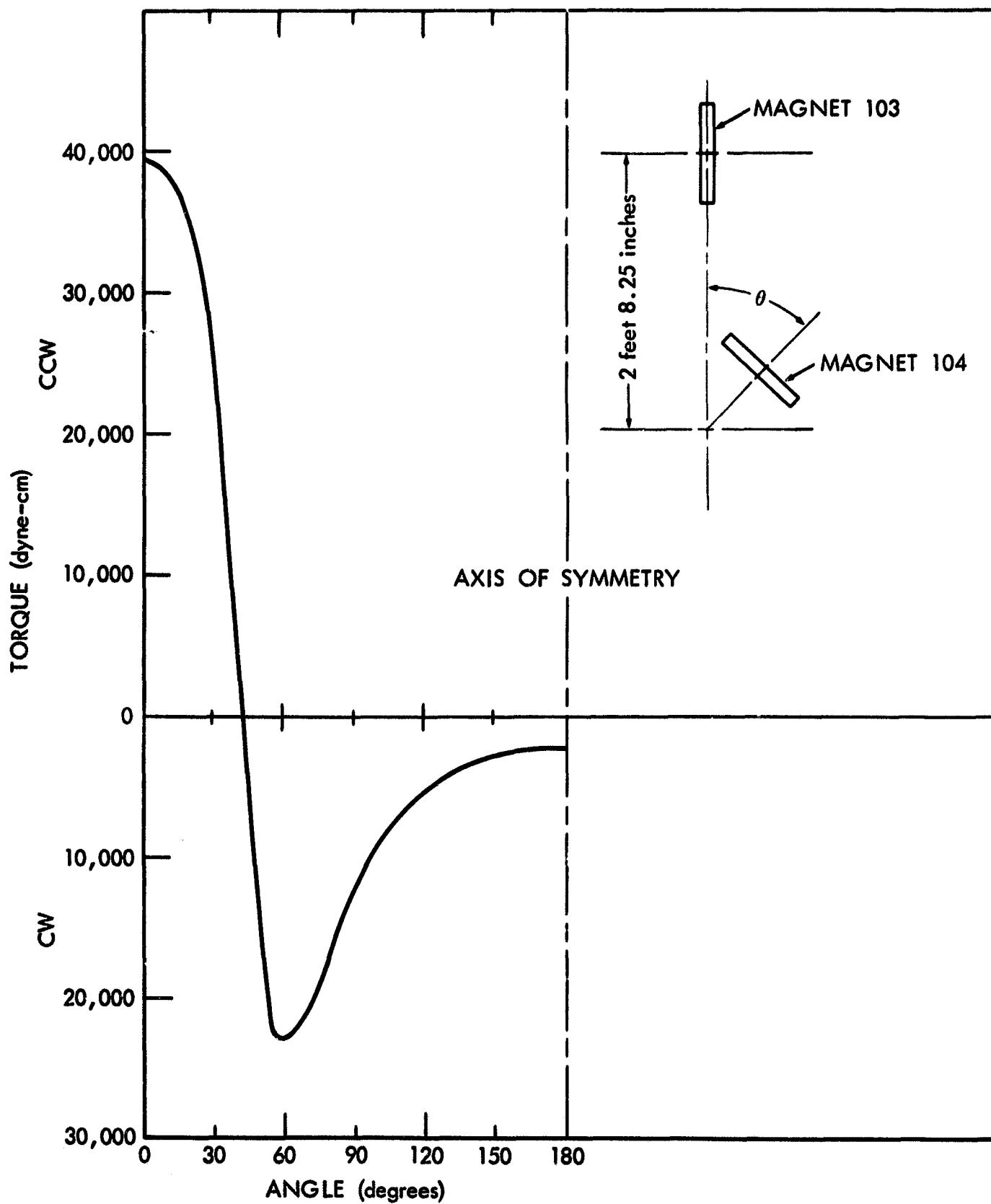


Figure 10. ATS-5 Despin Torques with Both Magnets Fully Charged

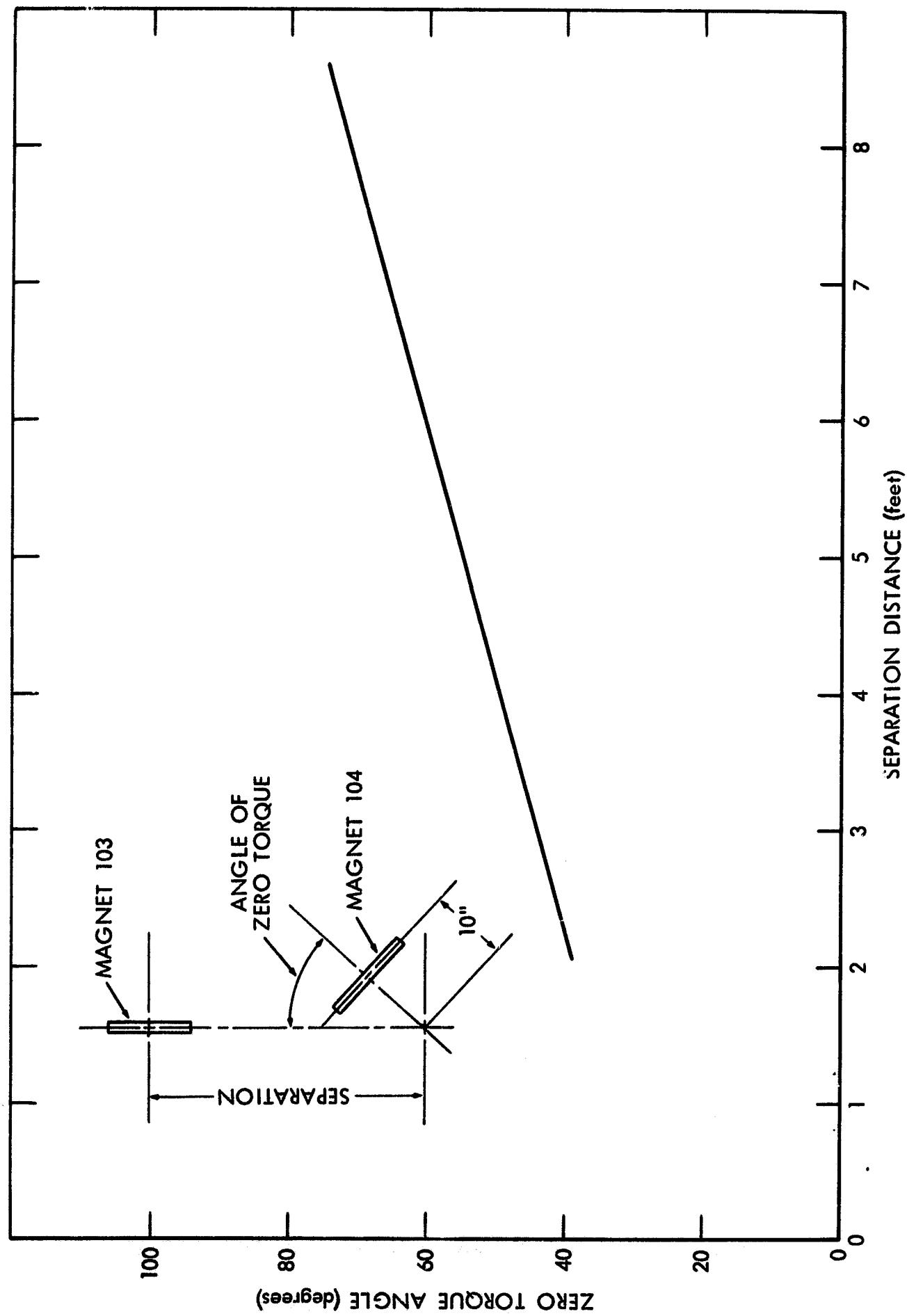


Figure 11. ATS-5 Despin Torques (Variation of Zero-Torque Angle with Separation)

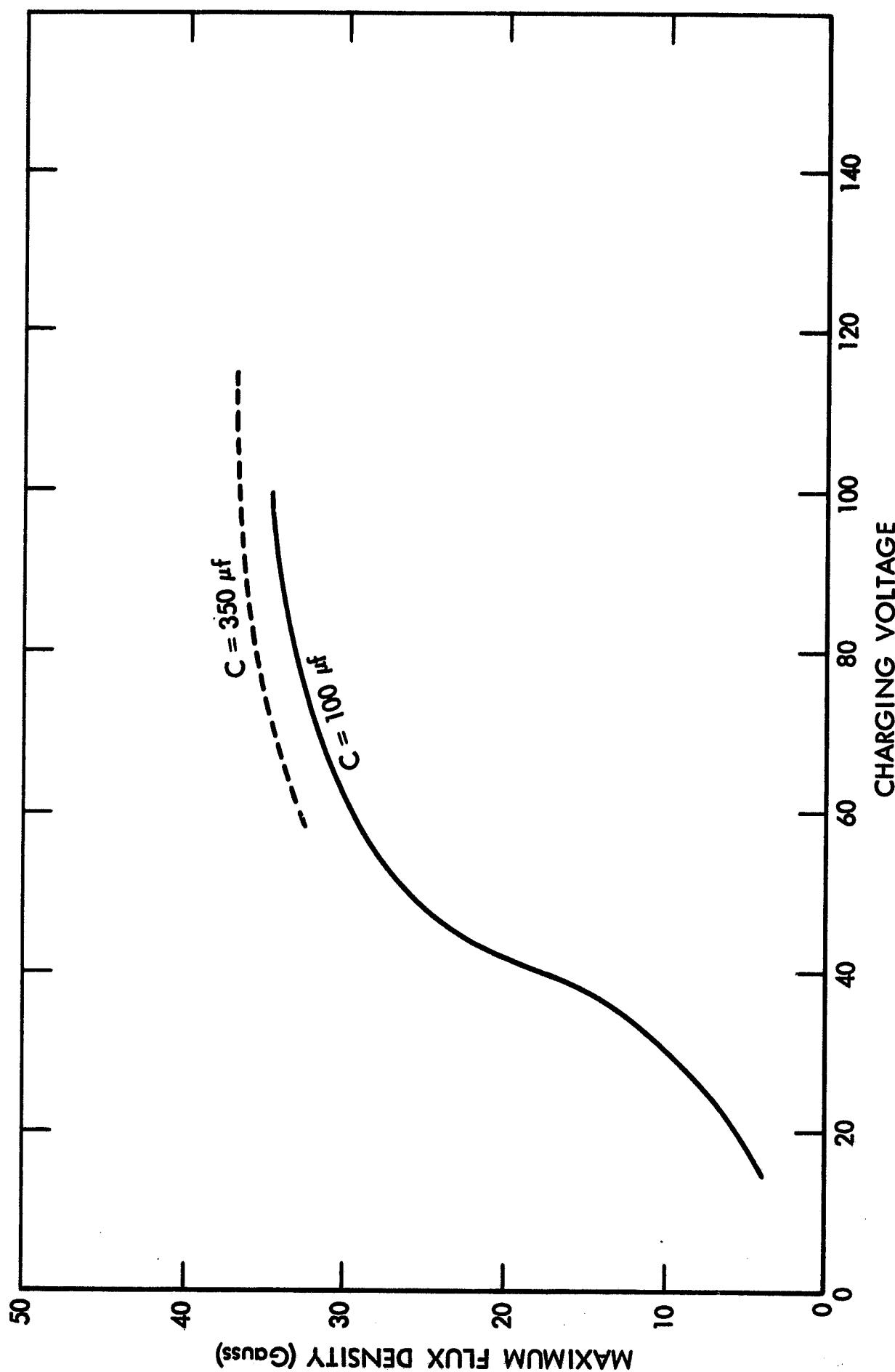


Figure 12. Electromagnet 103 Capacitive Pulse-Charging Characteristic

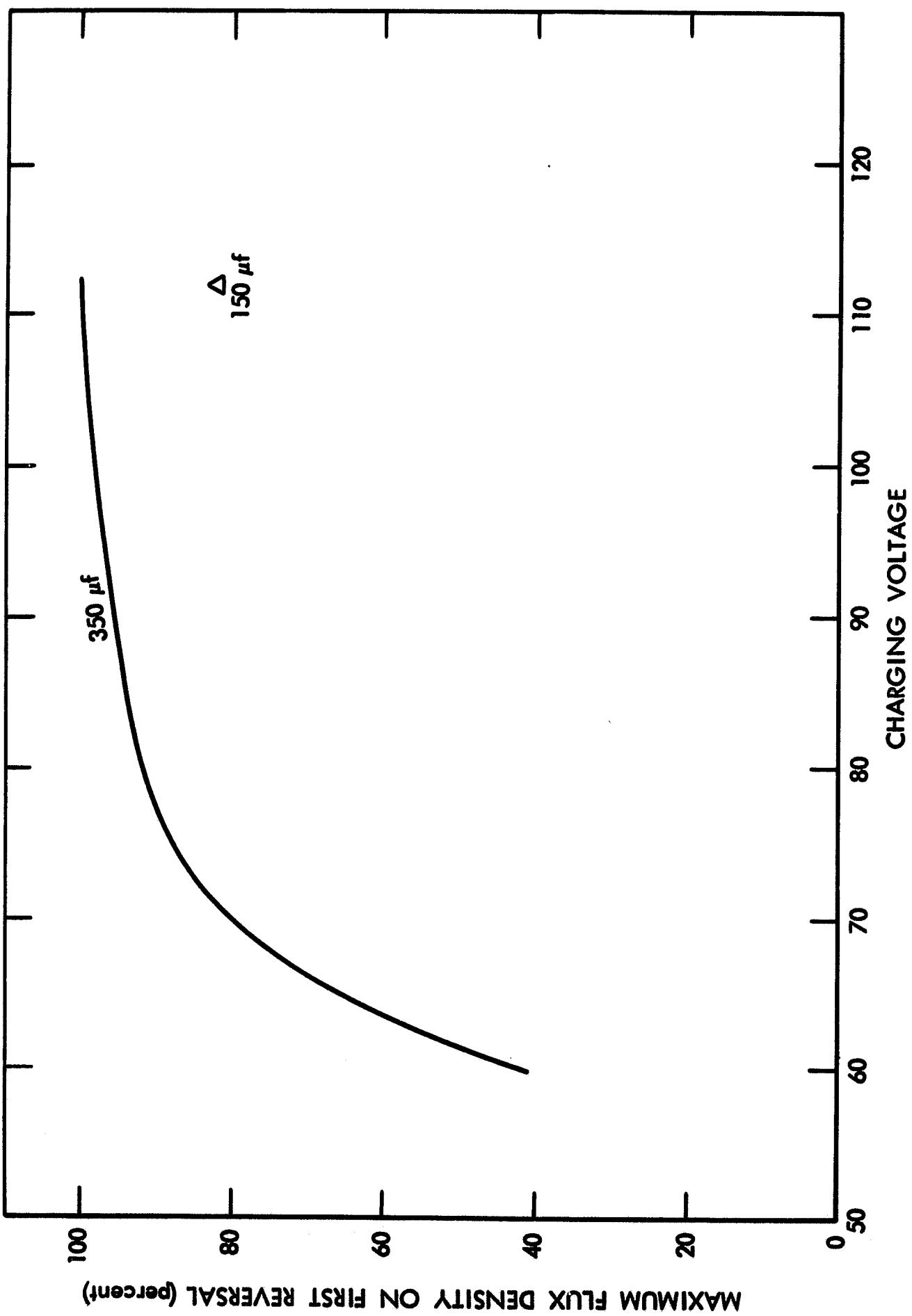


Figure 13. Electromagnet 103 Reverse-Charge Characteristic

are undesirable if the magnetometer record is to be used as an indicator of the angular orientation of the ATS satellite.

Data shown in Figures 5, 6, and 7 were obtained with varying degrees of signal filtering. The cleanest records were obtained when the filter was operated in the narrow-bandpass mode, with high attenuation of everything except the fundamental of 0.2 cycle per second. These records are essentially sinusoidal, with no discontinuity or dc offset as a result of reversing torquer-magnet polarity

## CONCLUSIONS

This testing program has provided valid experimental data for refining the mathematical model used to predict the performance of any specific satellite despin design.